

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 FCC-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 OC-05 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01 OTP-01 SIL-01

LAB-04 USPS-01 SCSE-00 TRSE-00 HEW-06 /063 W

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P 072027Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8000

INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

:AMCONSUL QUEBEC 420

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS OTTAWA 4194

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETEL, CA, ACOM, AFSP, ASEC, CFED

SUBJECT: STATUS OF POSTAL DISPUTE

REF: OTTAWA 3984

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN POST OFFICE AND CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS (CUPW) WERE BROKEN OFF NOV. 7 ON EIGHTEENTH DAY OF NATION-WIDE STRIKE. EMBASSY JUST LEARNED THAT CUPW EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTED NOT REPEAT NOT TO SUBMIT POST OFFICE'S LATEST OFFER TO VOTE BY MEMBERSHIP. INSTEAD, UNION HAS TOLD POSTMASTER-GENERAL MACKASEY IT IS PREPARED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ANY TIME.

2. NON-MONETARY ISSUES SUCH AS LIMITING USE OF CASUAL WORKERS, UP-GRADING JOB AND PAY CLASSIFICATIONS FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND CUSHIONING IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES (INCLUDING ARBITRATION OF DISAGREEMENTS UNRESOLVED)

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HAVE ALL BEEN SETTLED. WAGES AND HOURS HAVE LED TO

BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS. POSTMASTER-GENERAL
MACKASEY, FACED WITH NECESSITY OF STICKING TO C1.70 DOLLAR
AN HOUR (38 PERCENT) OVER 30 MONTHS, SAME AS GIVEN
LETTER CARRIERS LAST APRIL AND RECOMMENDED BY
CONCILIATION REPORT, IS HOLDING FIRM TO THIS OFFER
IN LIGHT OF GOC'S ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM. CUPW
NEGOTIATORS WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT WAGE OFFER
(THEY COULD HAVE SETTLED FOR SAME AMOUNT LAST MAY), BUT
WANT HIGHER NIGHT AND HOLIDAY SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL,
CLOSING 58-CENT WAGE GAP BETWEEN MAIL HANDLERS AND
SORTERS PLUS REDUCTION IN WORK WEEK TO 37.5 HOURS.

3. OUTLOOK FOR EARLY TERMINATION OF STRIKE REMAINS
BLEAK. LARGE TORONTO LOCAL WHICH HAS MAJORITY OPPOSING
STRIKE WILL VOTE TOMORROW WHETHER TO RETURN TO WORK.
HOWEVER, CUPW PRESIDENT DAVIDSON CONVINCED OVERWHELMING
MAJORITY OF 22,000 MEMBERS STILL SUPPORT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.
HE BELIEVES ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT MAY TAKE ANOTHER TWO
OR THREE WEEKS. NONETHELESS, IF GRASS ROOTS BACK-TO-WORK
MOVEMENT WERE TO TAKE HOLD AND SPREAD CUPW LEADERS WOULD
BE FACED WITH AGONIZING DECISION TO CHART NEW COURSE.

PORTER

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